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WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 1, 2020

Tomorrow's weather **58 | 44**



Pulse of Wabash

Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be dropped in the mail slot or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email news@wabashplaindealer.com. For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email ahughes@wabashplaindealer.com. For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. To bring you the most accurate information about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Wabash Plain Dealer has decided to prioritize news content over sports stories since sporting events are canceled for the time being. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. Thank you.

Holcomb orders Hoosiers to stay home through April 7

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb has ordered Hoosiers to remain in their homes through April 7 except when they are at work or for permitted activities, such as taking care of others, obtaining necessary supplies and for health and safety. All state government offices will be closed to in-person public activity. All public safety functions will continue.

Wabash County under a code yellow travel advisory

The lowest level of local travel advisory, code yellow means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation, and individuals should use caution or avoid those areas, according to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Attention churches

If you are planning to hold virtual Good Friday and Easter services, please contact us by email at ahughes@wabashplaindealer.com to submit your listing.

North Manchester Town Council meeting to be live-streamed

The North Manchester Town Council meeting set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1 at the Public Safety Building has been rescheduled for 5 p.m. via Zoom virtual

See PULSE, page A7

Inside

Classified, A8 Education, A6 Comics, A5 Viewpoint, A4 Crossword, A5 Weather, A2 Obituaries, A3



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City Council, BOW to discuss COVID-19 in teleconference

Ordinance, resolution to outline emergency procedures

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Wabash City Council, on Wednesday, and the Board of Works, on Thursday, will establish emergency procedures related to COVID-19 during teleconferenced special meetings.

Wabash City Council

In response to a Plain Dealer request Monday, Mayor Scott Long stated the new procedures were necessary given the uncharted circumstances.

"There are certain statutory things we need to put in this ordinance and pass it to conduct City Business, including, but not limited to: Term of the policy, work requirements, exceptions to normal work rules, policies

for working remotely and policies for paying employees in the event of a shutdown," stated Long. "These procedural policies have been recommended establishment through the ordinance. This is the only item on the agenda for consideration. This meeting is being held as recommended via conference call to promote social distancing and will be recorded."

The meeting will take place at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The phone number is 717-275-8940 and the access code is 9843484.

According to the proposed ordinance, no member of any board, commission or any other governing body of the city of Wabash is required to attend in person any regular or special meeting called or scheduled because of the need to conduct essential government business during the COVID-19 emergency.

All members may attend

by any means that allows all members of the governing body to hear one another and all members of the press and the public to hear the governing body members in real-time. The person convening the meeting shall see that all members, the public and the press are advised as to the suggested method of attending.

If any member attends the meeting in person, members of the public and press must be allowed to attend in person also but may be limited to no more than 10 who shall maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from each other. If more than 10 seek to attend, priority shall be given to the press and the public over non-essential governmental employees/staff.

According to the proposed ordinance, the city will continue to pay all employees their normal rates of pay so long as the employee continues to work under the

conditions permitted.

According to the proposed ordinance, the city has previously identified which employees can and therefore are expected to work remotely and has provided them with any necessary tools, technology, and methods of access.

"Employee required to work in the field shall continue to do so but shall, to the fullest extent possible, maintain social distancing. Police, firefighters and paramedics shall continue to provide necessary public safety duties," it stated.

According to the proposed ordinance, the following employees will continue to receive full pay even if they are unable to work: Employees who have been diagnosed as having COVID-19 or who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19; Employees who have been

See CONFERENCE, page A3

Reading, delivered

Wabash County United Fund drops off 547 board books to students

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

During the week of March 9, the Wabash County United Fund delivered 547 board books to the Area Five Head Start classes in North Manchester and Wabash and to pre-kindergarten classes in the L.H. Carpenter Early Learning Center, Southwood Elementary School, Manchester Elementary School, Metro North Elementary School and the Manchester Early Learning Center.

In response to a Plain Dealer request, Di Wion, resource coordinator at Wabash County United Fund, stated titles included "Ten Apples Up On Top!"; "Are You My Mother?"; "Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb"; "Hop on Pop"; and "There's a Wocket In My Pocket."

"These books were purchased through a grant from the Indiana United Way to help grow the at-home libraries and reading abilities of more than 300 young Wabash County citizens. This was the second time during the 2019-2020 school year that United Fund distributed board books to support early childhood education in the county," stated Wion.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



The books pictured here were distributed at L.H. Carpenter Early Learning Center and were from the first round of board books which were given out during Dr. Seuss Day last month.

Provided photo

Indiana Election Commission adopts new procedures for June 2 primary election

Gov. Eric Holcomb previously moved the primary from May 5

STAFF REPORT

In response to recommendations from Gov. Eric Holcomb, Secretary of State Connie Lawson, and the leadership of Indiana's major political parties, the Indiana Election Commission has issued an order "making it easier for Hoosiers to vote" in the June 2 Primary Election, according to a press release.

Holcomb previously moved the primary from May 5.

The commission's order included the following changes, which will apply to the June 2 Primary Election only:

- Moves all election dates by 28 days.
- Avoids reprinting ballots and other forms that have the May 5th, 2020 date.
- It allows everyone to cast an absentee ballot by mail without having a specific reason to do so.
- Grandfathers applications already received for an absentee ballot, which did not state an excuse permitting the person to vote by mail.
- Permits county election boards to conduct meetings

electronically rather than in person.

■ Encourages counties to appoint medical professionals to act as traveling absentee boards to help voters confined in medical facilities to cast a ballot.

■ Permits family members and caregivers of a confined voter to personally deliver and return a ballot.

■ Allows county election boards to consolidate voting locations and vote center sites and to take spacing measures to ensure the safety of voters.

■ Loosens restrictions on students who wish to serve

See PRIMARY, page A3

Treasury, not Social Security, will be making CARES Act payments

Social Security benefits to be paid on time

STAFF REPORT

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will

continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Andrew Saul, commissioner of Social Security.

"The agency also reminds everyone to be aware of scammers who try to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing

personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury," stated Saul.

The Department of the Treasury will soon provide information about economic impact payments under the recently enacted law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act.

See CARES, page A3

U.S. death toll eclipses China's as reinforcements head to NYC

By COLLEEN LONG,
KAREN MATTHEWS
and DAVID RISING
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus climbed past 3,600 Tuesday, eclipsing China's official count, as hard-hit New York City rushed to bring in more medical professionals and ambulances and parked refrigerated morgue trucks on the streets to collect the dead.

The crisis hit close to home for Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who reported teary-eyed that his brother, CNN anchor Chris Cuomo, was infected.

The governor pronounced the disaster unlike any other the city has weathered: "This is ongoing and the duration itself is debilitating and exhausting and depressing."

Elsewhere around the world, hard-hit Italy reported that the infection rate appears to be leveling off and new cases could start declining, but that the crisis is far from over. Spain struggled to fend off the collapse of its hospital system. Vladimir Putin's Russia moved to crack down on quarantine violations and "fake news" about the outbreak. And China edged closer to normal as stores in the epicenter city of Wuhan began reopening.

Worldwide, more than 800,000 people have been infected and over 40,000 have died, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Italy and Spain accounted for half the deaths, while the U.S. had over 180,000 infections, with more dead than China's official toll of about 3,300.

New York was the nation's deadliest hot spot, with about 1,550 deaths statewide, most of them in New York City, which braced for things to get much worse in the coming weeks.

At Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, critically ill COVID-19 patients are filling intensive care units, surgical floors and operating rooms and waiting in the emergency room for beds to become available, said Dr. Eric Wei of the city's hospital agency.

"I've practiced emergency medicine for a long time, and I'm seeing things that I never could have imagined in terms of the things this virus can do to all ages, including people who were previously healthy," he said.

A 1,000-bed emergency hospital set up at the mammoth Javits Convention Center began taking non-coronavirus patients to help relieve the city's overwhelmed health system. A Navy hospital ship with 1,000 beds that arrived on Monday was expected to begin accepting patients on Tuesday.

The indoor tennis center that is the site of the U.S. Open tournament is being turned into a hospital as well.

The city also worked to bring in 250 out-of-town ambulances and 500 paramedics to deal with a crush of emergency calls. The fire commissioner said ambulances are responding to double their normal daily total of 3,000 calls to 911. A five-day stretch last week was the busiest in the history of the city's emergency services operation.

In addition, New York authorities sought to bring on more volunteer health care professionals and hoped to have them on board by Thursday. Nearly 80,000 former nurses, doctors and others are said to be stepping forward, and the governor said officials are doing background checks for disciplinary actions and otherwise making sure they are fit for duty.

Around the city, workers in protective gear have been seen putting bodies of victims into refrigerated trailers. At some hospitals, like Lenox Hill in Manhattan, the trucks are parked on city streets, along sidewalks and in front of apartments. Cars and buses passed by as corpses were loaded by forklift at Brooklyn Hospital Center. People captured some of the scenes by cellphone.

As for Chris Cuomo, the 49-year-old TV newsmen tweeted that he has suffered from fever, chills and shortness of breath and will be

doing his shows from his basement, where he has quarantined himself.

"Luckily we caught it early enough," the governor said. "But it's my family, it's your family, it's all of our families. But this virus is that insidious, and we must keep that all in mind."

Figures on deaths and infections around the world are supplied by government health authorities and compiled by Johns Hopkins.

But the numbers are regarded with skepticism by public health experts because of different counting practices, a lack of testing in places, the numerous mild cases that have been missed, and perhaps government efforts to downplay the severity of the crisis.

For example, in Italy, where the death toll was put at about 12,400, the country's emergency coordinator, Domenico Arcuri, acknowledged that officials don't have a handle on how many people are dying at home or in nursing homes.

Still, there was a glimmer of hope there: Dr. Silvio Brusaferro, head of Italy's institutes of health, said that three weeks into a nationwide lockdown, the hardest-hit country in Europe is seeing the rate of new infections level off.

"The curve suggests we are at the plateau," he said. But "arriving at the plateau doesn't mean we have conquered the peak and we're done. It means now we should start to see the decline if we continue to place maximum attention on what we do every day."

With the country's health care system buckling under the pressure, a field hospital, built in just 10 days, was unveiled at the Milan fairgrounds.

"We made a promise and we kept it," said the head of the project, former civil protection chief Guido Bertolaso, who ended up catching the virus while on the job and had to work from his hospital bed.

In Russia, lawmakers approved harsher punishments, including prison sentences of several years, for violating quarantine rules and spreading misinformation. The chief doctor at Moscow's top hospital for coronavirus patients said he tested positive, a week after shaking hands with Putin.

Spain reported more than 840 new deaths, pushing the

toll above 8,000 and forcing Madrid to open a second temporary morgue after an ice rink pressed into service last week became overwhelmed.

Dozens of hotels across Spain have been turned into recovery rooms, and authorities are building field hospitals in sports centers, libraries and exhibition halls.

Israel's Defense Ministry said it has converted a missile-production facility into an assembly line for ventilators.

In the smoldering hot spot of Louisiana, the death toll climbed to 239. And Tony Spell, a pastor charged with a misdemeanor for holding six church services in violation of the governor's ban on public gatherings said he would continue to defy the law "because the Lord told us to."

Louisiana and Michigan were running out of ventilators, despite promises by the White House of more equipment.

Louisiana's governor said the hard-hit New Orleans region is on track to run out of breathing machines by the weekend and hospital beds a week later. The Trump administration has committed to sending 150 ventilators from the national stockpile, but the state hasn't received an arrival date. Michigan said it needs 5,000 to 10,000 more.

Meanwhile, a senior military general said the Pentagon has not yet delivered any of the 2,000 ventilators it offered to the Department of Health and Human Services two weeks ago because HHS has asked it to wait while the agency determines where the devices should go.

In Florida, the Holland America cruise line pleaded with state officials to let two ships dock and carry off the sick and the dead. Dozens aboard have reported flu-like symptoms, and four people have died.

But Gov. Ron DeSantis said on Fox News: "We cannot afford to have people who are not even Floridians dumped into South Florida using up those valuable resources."

Among the few positive signs: In Britain, where the number of dead reached nearly 1,800, the medical director of the National Health Service's operations in England said there is evidence that social distancing is working. And China reported just one new death from the coronavirus and 48 new cases, all of them from overseas.

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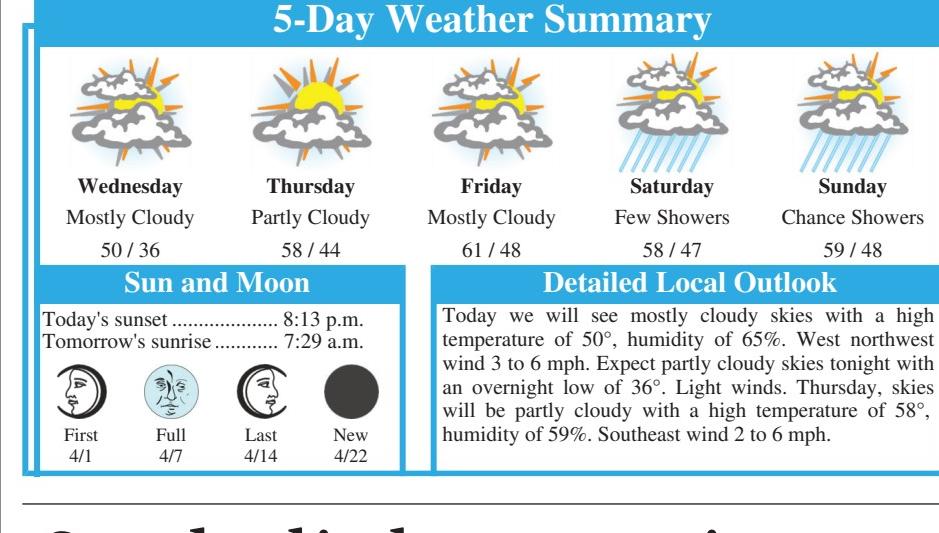
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 50°, humidity of 65%. West northwest wind 3 to 6 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 36°. Light winds. Thursday, skies will be partly cloudy with a high temperature of 58°, humidity of 59%. Southeast wind 2 to 6 mph.

Study links overtime to masked hypertension

DEAR DOCTOR: I heard about a study that says working overtime gives you high blood pressure.

My husband just joined a competitive company, and he's expected to work a lot of extra hours. He's already a Type A kind of guy, and I'm worried.

DEAR READER: You're referring to the results of research published last December that found a connection between putting in long hours at work each week and an increased risk of developing high blood pressure.

This is when blood pressure readings in the doctor's office are normal but then rise to elevated – and even dangerous – levels outside of the clinical setting. That makes diagnosis and treatment difficult and may put someone at higher risk of heart problems and stroke.

In the study, published in the journal Hypertension, researchers in Canada followed 3,500 office workers for five years. Participants in the study wore a device that measured their blood pressure every 15 minutes. The researchers also obtained daily blood pressure readings while the workers were at rest.

The goal was to identify periods of normal blood pressure, sustained high blood pressure and masked hypertension.

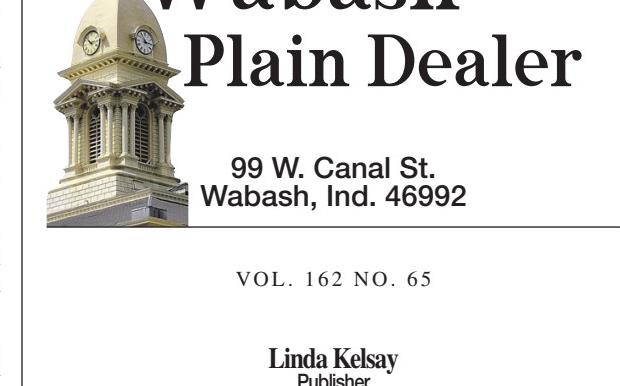
After adjusting the resulting data for lifestyle factors such as weight and smoking, existing medical conditions such as diabetes, family medical history and job strain, the researchers found a correlation between how much overtime someone worked and their blood pressure.

Overall, the study found a 70 percent higher risk of masked hypertension among workers who put in 49 or more hours per week as compared to those with a workweek of 35 hours or fewer. They also found that the overtime group had a 66 percent higher risk of sustained high blood pressure. These are blood pressure readings that remain high and can be measured in a clinical setting.

As little as one to nine hours of overtime was linked to a significant increase in risk of both types of hypertension. The results held true for both women and men.

Analysis of previous research, which also finds a connection between a long workweek and developing high blood pressure, suggests stress and loss of sleep as potential causes. But because the number-crunching in the Canadian study takes those factors into consideration, the authors suspect some other mechanism is at work. Considering that the study looked at white-collar workers, who spend the lion's share of their time behind a desk, recent revelations about the adverse health effects of prolonged sitting may hold a clue. These include weight gain, increased risk of developing metabolic diseases like Type 2 diabetes, and, yes, hypertension. It will be interesting to see if these parallel avenues of research converge.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided



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TUESDAY'S METALS

Aluminum 68

Copper 2.16

Lead 77

Zinc 83

Gold 1,607.54

Silver 14.07

Platinum 739.57

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices

Tuesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$3.30.

Soybeans: \$8.83.

Obituaries

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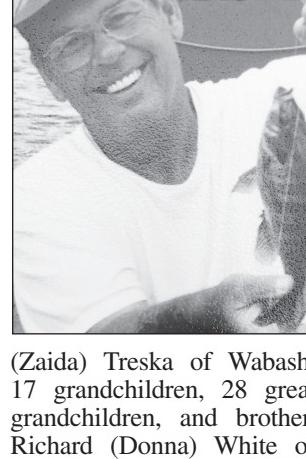
Robert E. White

Jan. 2, 1941 - March 30, 2020

Robert E. "Bob" White, 79, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 5:01 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2020 at his home. He was born Jan. 2, 1941 in Wabash, to Mel White and Thelma (Evans) White Ross.

Bob married Sue Harris Treska on Dec. 1, 1999 at the Wabash First United Methodist Church. He worked his entire life in the gaming industry. Bob managed the Golden Nugget Casino in Las Vegas, and also established the Vegas Dealing School, the largest dealing school in Las Vegas. He was a member of the Church of Christ at Treaty. Bob was a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels, and enjoyed golfing and fishing. He always had others best interest at heart, and enjoyed spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Sue White of Wabash, five children, Bob (Robyn) Treska of Henderson, Nevada, Gary (Rita) White of Tampa, Florida, Kris (Joette) White of Land O Lakes, Florida, Katherine White of Pensacola, Florida, and Connie White of Wabash, two step children, Beth (Frank) Driscoll of Urbana, Indiana, and Rick



(Zaida) Treska of Wabash, 17 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and brother, Richard (Donna) White of Wabash. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his half brother, Steve White.

Due to the COVID-19 social restrictions services will be private at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash, with Ryan Weaver officiating. Burial will be in Falls Cemetery, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is Church of Christ at Treaty Youth Group.

The memorial guest book for Bob may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Ex-wildlife chief: Trump rule could kill billions of birds

By AMY BETH HANSON
and MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BUTTE, Mont. — At a former open pit copper mine filled with billions of gallons of toxic water, sirens and loud pops from propane cannons echo off the granite walls to scare away birds so they don't land.

After several thousand migrating snow geese perished in the Berkeley Pit's acidic, metal-laden waters in 2016, its owners deployed a sophisticated arsenal to frighten away flocks, including lasers, drones, fireworks and remote-controlled boats.

Montana Resources already had been hazing incoming birds with spotlights and rifle shots into the water — and a spokesman says those existing deterrents likely helped the company avoid a penalty or prosecution under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

But the Trump administration wants to end the 50-year practice of using the criminal penalties under the migratory bird law to pressure companies into taking measures like these to prevent unintentional bird deaths.

Critics — including top Interior Department officials from Republican and Democratic administrations — say the proposed change could devastate threatened and endangered species and accelerate a bird population decline across North America since the 1970s.

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe told The Associated Press the law's threat of prosecution served as "a brake on industry" that had saved probably billions of birds.

"Removing that obligation, if it stands, over the next several decades will result in billions of birds being casualties," said Ashe, who served in the Obama administration. "It will be catastrophic."

Industry sources kill an estimated 450 million to 1.1 billion birds annually, out of an overall 7.2 billion birds in North America, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and recent studies.

The Trump administration dismissed Ashe's dire prediction, contending companies will continue to avoid bird deaths voluntarily.

At the Berkeley Pit, Montana Resources plans to keep

up efforts that drive away almost all birds, in part to avoid a repeat of the negative publicity and community backlash that followed the 2016 bird kill, according to Mark Thompson, the manager of environmental affairs.

"We as a company see it as an essential environmental protection," Thompson said.

The 1918 migratory bird law came after many U.S. bird populations had been decimated by hunting and poaching, much of it for feathers for women's hats. Over the past half-century, the law also was applied against companies that failed to prevent foreseeable bird deaths.

However, the Trump administration says deaths of birds that fly into oil pits, mining sites, telecommunications towers, wind turbines and other hazards should be treated as accidents not subject to prosecution. And an Interior Department proposal would cement that into federal regulation.

State officials and wildlife advocates who are suing the administration in federal court say birds already are being harmed under actions allowed by a 2017 Trump administration legal memo that signaled the rule change.

Most notable was the destruction last fall of nesting grounds for 25,000 shorebirds in Virginia to make way for a road and tunnel project. State officials had ended conservation measures for the birds after federal officials advised such measures were voluntary under the new interpretation of the law.

The move to relax the bird law, combined with Trump rollbacks of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act puts birds and their habitat at greater risk, said Audubon Society vice president Sarah Greenberger.

The Trump administration proposal follows longstanding pressure from oil companies, utilities and other industries.

The Edison Electric Institute, which represents many U.S. utilities, contends it would be "absurd" to criminalize "ordinary, everyday activities" that happen to result in bird death, which can result in up to six months in prison and a \$15,000 penalty for every bird injured or killed.

The American Petroleum Institute suggested in a regulatory filing that "The birds themselves are the actors, colliding or otherwise interacting with industrial structures."

More than 1,000 types of birds are covered by the law, from water birds such as ducks and pelicans, to woodpeckers, songbirds, hawks and owls.

Criminal enforcement of the law typically was used only as a last resort, according to current and former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials.

The agency conducted 152 investigations into bird deaths across the U.S. over a five-year period ending Dec. 31, 2017, according to spokesman Gavin Shire.

Most involved birds killed by power lines, which kill upward of 25 million birds annually, according to a 2014 government-sponsored study.

The number of investigations resulting in prosecutions was not available, Shire said.

"The goal was to generate voluntary compliance. You do that by educating people," said Gary Mowad, who served as deputy chief of enforcement during a 25-year-career with the agency.

"We did a great job of keeping (bird) mortality in control. The only regulatory tool that the federal government had at its disposal to address that is now gone or will be gone."

The most notable enforcement case bought under the migratory bird act resulted in a \$100 million settlement by BP, after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010 killed approximately 100,000 birds.

Federal courts have been split on whether companies can be prosecuted, with appeals courts ruling in favor of industry three times and siding against companies twice.

At the Berkeley Pit, initial efforts to discourage birds from landing were prompted by deaths of 342 snow geese that landed in November, 1995.

Over the next two decades, an average of six birds per year were found dead in the pit, Thompson said.

"We quickly learned that warning shots from a high-powered rifle worked great and that pretty much carried us through 'til 2016,"

he said.

Then in November 2016 a huge, exhausted flock of snow geese that stayed at their summer grounds in Canada longer than unusual were forced quickly south by cold weather. They found the Berkeley Pit to be the only open water to escape a sudden snowstorm — and an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 of the birds that landed there died.

In response, Montana Resources dramatically ramped up its bird scare tactics and Thompson said it would keep up the efforts regardless of the Trump administration's actions, mirroring pledges from some other companies and industries.

Much of the attention over accidental bird deaths has focused on oil companies.

Kathleen Sgamma, president of the industry group Western Energy Alliance, said that estimates of as many as a million birds killed annually in oil pits are outdated because companies have shifted away from using open pits to store hazardous waste from drilling.

"The studies haven't caught up with the realities on the ground," Sgamma said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disputed Ashe's claim that billions more birds were at risk from the rule change and noted that most preventive measures already are voluntary ones.

"Without a scientific basis, any claim as to the number of birds that would be negatively affected would be speculative and irresponsible," Shire said in an emailed statement.

Ashe's estimate that billions of birds were at risk was supported by a leading ornithologist from Cornell University and two former senior officials with the Fish and Wildlife Service — Brad Bortner, who retired in 2017 from his post as chief of the migratory bird program, and Paul Schmidt, the agency's former assistant director.

"If we're talking about over decades, and a billion birds already are killed by industry annually, that does start really adding up pretty quickly," said Amanda Rodewald, co-director of Cornell's Center for Avian Population Studies.

"We're talking about a scale of mortality that's substantial, that would be meaningful ecologically and biologically."

LOAN

From page A1

The deadline for initial applications is Wednesday, April 15. More information regarding the terms and requirements for these loans as well as the necessary application and documents may

be found here: <https://www.growwabashcounty.com/entrepreneurship/revolving-loanfund/>.

Questions regarding Grow Wabash County's RLF program or the application process may be directed by email to info@growwabashcounty.com or by calling 260-563-5258.

again at 10 a.m. April 22.

Eligible Hoosiers may register to vote online, check their registration status and request an absentee ballot by visiting www.IndianaVoters.com.

The Indiana Election Commission welcomes public comments on the order and other topics related to the June 2 Primary Election. Members of the public may submit comments via email to elections@iec.in.gov.

The commission will meet

and orders," it stated.

Board of Works

The Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday via teleconference. The phone number is 260-274-0522 and the participant key is 677863.

Their proposed resolution carries much the same language as the city's regarding board meetings.

According to the proposed resolution, the board designates the mayor to sign on behalf of the other Board Members during the Emergency Period all claims the Mayor determines to be appropriate and the mayor's signature alone shall be sufficient for the Clerk-Treasurer to issue payment on behalf of the city.

"Before the first meeting of the board to be held after the occurrence of one of the events set forth ... all Board members shall review the claims approved by the Mayor or during the Emergency Period and shall be prepared to vote on whether to ratify any or all of such claims," it stated. "The board shall vote on whether to ratify any or all of the claims approved by the mayor during the Emergency Period. If there are any claims not ratified by the Board, the Clerk-Treasurer shall attempt to get reimbursement from the claimant."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

CONFERENCE

From page A1

as poll workers or absentee board members.

■ Allows county election boards to begin expeditiously counting ballots at 6 a.m. on Election Day.

■ Advises county election boards that election results must be determined by 3 p.m. June 12.

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the state had 365 confirmed cases and 12 reported deaths from COVID-19.

Five of the state's 14 new deaths involved Indianapolis residents and four others were from Lake County. There was one death each reported from Elkhart, Decatur, Hancock, Ripley and Warren counties.

Marion County, the home of Indianapolis, had 170 of the state's 374 new coronavirus cases reported Tuesday.

Indianapolis and the seven counties surrounding it account for 68 percent of Indiana's COVID-19 deaths and 63 percent of its confirmed cases.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. Older adults and people with existing health problems are among those particularly susceptible to more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

Tuesday's update on the pandemic in Indiana followed Monday's announcement by state officials that Indiana hospitals have increased the state's intensive care unit capacity by about

one-third in the past few weeks in preparation for an expected surge in coronavirus-related illnesses.

Dr. Kristina Box, the state health commissioner, said Monday that Indiana's illness peak was still expected in mid- to late-April, but some prediction models put it later, as late as mid-May.

Gov. Eric Holcomb on Monday signed an executive order that eased medical licensing restrictions to allow retired medical professionals and those with an inactive license to practice medicine and join Indiana's response to the pandemic.

on the 800 number and asks the public to remain patient, use its online services at www.socialsecurity.gov or call their local office.

Visit the agency's COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ for important information and updates.

information to share.

The agency continues to direct the public to its online self-service options whenever possible. Local offices are closed to the public but are available by phone. People can find their local field office phone number by accessing the Field Office Locator.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 1-202-224-5623 <http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

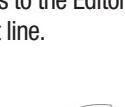
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9:11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17

How America can reopen

The virus will almost certainly re-emerge as individual states and cities start to lift the strictures of social distancing and shelter-in-place – but, ideally, that re-emergence will look more like a string of smaller brush fires than one raging forest fire. Health officials will not be able to detect those brush fires, or keep them from growing, without diagnostic tests. They will need enough tests both to survey the population at random and to diagnose patients who experience symptoms. They will also need the capacity to isolate those who test positive, and to identify, quarantine and monitor their contacts. If those contacts develop symptoms, they'll need to be able to test them, too.

To build such capacity, the federal government will have to invest in the nation's undervalued and deeply strained public health system: more funding will be crucial, but it will not be enough. State and federal leaders should work together, now, to create a public works corps to assist epidemiologists with contact tracing, to erect thousands of drive-through testing sites, and to do the work of infection control in nursing homes and homeless shelters. Some states are already doing this on their own, but others will need federal funding – perhaps in the form of block grants.

Antibody tests, which can determine whether someone has been exposed to the virus and may therefore be immune, will help get people back to work safely, allowing individuals and public health authorities to gauge who can proceed without worry, and who needs to take additional precautions. Scientists, in America and elsewhere, have already developed such tests.

The federal government should orchestrate production of the tests in the necessary numbers.

Public health authorities also should oversee the creation of temperature checkpoints outside of factories and office buildings, and in other close-packed or high-traffic

places – and those measures should be increased anytime disease detectives find the hint of a brewing outbreak. This will take a combination of state-level mandates and aggressive public advertising campaigns. People hate being told what to do, never more so than when it comes to their own bodies; clear and consistent messages will help mitigate the predictable pushback.

The Trump administration's initial reluctance to treat the coronavirus as a serious threat, and its deference to corporations, has left the United States badly behind in producing needed supplies and equipment like ventilators, intensive care unit beds, masks, swabs, gowns and gloves.

After weeks of costly hesitation, President Trump invoked the Defense Production Act on Friday to require General Motors to produce ventilators. It is a welcome step, but more is required. The administration must act to expand production of other needed supplies, too, both to deal with outbreaks happening now and to prepare for hot spots that are sure to emerge. Some companies are producing these supplies, but those efforts remain inadequate and uncoordinated. Only the White House can provide the necessary leadership.

Hospitals around the country will also need surge capacity – the physical space to isolate and treat contagious patients and to make use of additional beds and ventilators – for many months to come. States like New York and Washington have been forced to build this capacity mid-crisis, by calling on the National Guard and pleading with the federal government for support. Other states should be planning now for the same life-or-death struggle.

As new outbreaks pop up, experts will need data to guide their decision making. Information – on hospital capacity and viral spread, among other things – that is centrally located, regularly updated and readily available will be

essential to figuring out when or whether social distancing or other measures need to be implemented again.

So far, no such system exists. As a result, most local governments don't have efficient ways to track supplies of personal protective equipment or monitor and publicly report their hospital and I.C.U. capacity.

What should the chronically ill in a given region do during an outbreak? Where should those with asthma go if they have an attack? The fact that most Americans don't know the answers to those questions is dangerous and inexcusable in an era of such data abundance.

Some scientists are working to rectify that problem – to create the apps and websites that such a crisis demands. But those efforts will only be useful if they are brought to scale quickly. That, too, will take federal oversight and financial support.

There is no shortage of analogies for how to think about these components of the long-term response: It's a Marshall Plan, an Apollo mission and a New Deal all rolled into one. However this is framed, it needs to happen fast for the sake of both the economy and the public's health.

"The half measures we're taking now are doing real harm to people's livelihoods without doing as much as they could to slow the virus," says Jeremy Konyndyk, a senior policy fellow at the Center for Global Development.

It will be difficult to explain these past few weeks to future generations – how terror and complacency sat so close together, how despite years of warnings from global experts and weeks of signaling from Asia and Europe, America's leaders failed to prepare for the inevitable, and how even as sickness and death surpassed the capacity of hospitals and funeral homes, they did not act decisively.

There is still a chance to avoid the worst outcomes, but time is short.

A version of this editorial was first published in *The New York Times*.



Let's protect our pharmacists

By DARREN R. COVINGTON

Healthcare workers across the country are grappling with their response to COVID-19, and tirelessly working on our behalf to treat sick patients, all while putting themselves at risk of infection. Among these healthcare workers are your local pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. For many Hoosiers, there is a pharmacy located close by, making pharmacists one of the most accessible healthcare professionals.

Your local pharmacist needs your help as they continue to serve you.

Here are some ways that you can help protect them so they can continue to do their job:

Many pharmacies now offer home delivery services.

Take advantage of this to avoid unnecessary trips in public.

Many pharmacies have a drive-thru or offer curbside pick-up. If yours has one, use it instead of going inside.

If your pharmacy doesn't offer delivery service or have a drive-thru, and if you are at an elevated risk of infection or have symptoms, have someone else pick up your prescriptions for you. Be sure to stand at least 6 feet away from the staff.

Purdue University's Center for Health Equity & Innovation has developed a resource to help the public understand prescription pickup options that are available.

This resource is available at www.indianapharmacists.org/covid-19-resources.

Finally, be wary of purchasing medication online.

While your local pharmacist helps keep you healthy, criminals are exploiting fear and confusion for profit by selling fake preventions, treatments and alleged cures online.

At best, these fake products are ineffective, at worst, they are deadly. According to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, a survey of over 2,000 online pharmacies revealed that 98 percent of them were illegitimate. There are safe pharmacies online, but make sure to use NABP to verify the pharmacy first at safe.pharmacy/buy-safely.

Pharmacists stand ready to continue serving patients, so let's do our part to protect them.

Darren R. Covington is the executive vice president of the Indiana Pharmacists Association.

LETTERS

nonprofit Stuttering Foundation not only has resources but also activities and guidance for helping young people with their stuttering while at home. For teens and adults who stutter, we have two excellent

self-help e-books free online.

Even amid uncertainty, we carry on our mission with the same passion and commitment as ever. Visit us at www.stutteringhelp.org

Renters need a bailout, too

By FRANK ARTHUR

As the COVID-19 crisis escalates, numerous states are moving to close public gathering spaces and businesses to limit the outbreak, and many hourly and low-wage Americans are suddenly stuck wondering how they will pay their rent. This disaster has widened the existing gaps in our society, and is already letting those who were already struggling fall through the cracks – and there is a clear gap between those who will come out of this crisis with scratches and those who will be maimed.

With the pandemic unlikely to end in the next few weeks, the millions of Americans who are currently unemployed due to the crisis are going to be without any income for the foreseeable future. Right now we need leadership that considers them, not just stock owners. Renters are also particularly vulnerable during this time as unemployment skyrockets. Even the most cynical person should agree that the last thing anyone should have to worry about during a health crisis is whether or not they're going to be kicked out of their home.

Before this crisis started, many of those who are currently unemployed were already falling behind in an economy that favors tax cuts for wealthy individuals and corporations over raising depressed wages and funding safety net programs. Previously, upwards of 40 percent of Americans couldn't afford a \$400 emergency expense, and 40 percent of Americans were one missed paycheck away from becoming homeless.

Now, due to factors completely out of their control, many of these people face months without any guaranteed income and debt on a couple of months of rent and utilities. It is unclear how much and how quickly the stimulus bill will help those in this kind of urgent need.

Further, the economic fallout of this pandemic will not be wrapped up in the weeks after it ends. It's very likely that when workers can return to the job market, we will be in the midst of a recession, or worse. That's why we need a forward-thinking policy, targeted to our most vulnerable citizens, right now.

While there are numerous moratoriums currently being issued by states and cities across the nation, none of them freeze payments completely. They generally only delay evictions for coronavirus related financial problems, allowing tenants and homeowners to pay back their outstanding fees over six months after the crisis ends. But with 4 in 5 Americans currently working paycheck-to-paycheck, it's unlikely that many will be able to find work after things settle down, let alone pay back the debt that they've taken on through no fault of their own.

We are all going to hurt, but it's those who work for a living that is going to suffer the most. Wealthy individuals like myself will be fine during this crisis. Of course, money cannot shield me from the virus, but I can work from home to reduce my risk of receiving the disease while still receiving a paycheck. My finances will take a large hit, but I won't have to worry about being evicted or not making my mortgage payments.

I'm glad that our states and localities are working to find solutions in these uncertain times, but for these at-risk groups who will be devastated by this, it's simply not enough. We are the richest nation in the world and we can do so much more if we have the will to do so.

In the immediate moment, we need to issue an indefinite, nationwide moratorium on evictions, mortgage payments, utilities, and foreclosures. Without it, I fear that many Americans will continue to live in turmoil long after we solve the current health crisis.

But it is also my sincere hope that one positive of this crisis will be a focus on the truly unnecessary inequities in our society, and serve to require changes in livable wages, reasonable health care, homelessness and meaningful unemployment insurance. We need to rethink the system that brought us here in the first place. It's time our national government started protecting the millions of Americans who work for a living, rather than the select few who base their income off the market.

This is way past time for a change.

Frank Arthur is a Navy veteran and worked in the U.S. Justice Department. He currently is a Real Estate Developer in California specializing in Transit Oriented Development and Affordable Housing. He recently joined as a member of the Patriotic Millionaires.

HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, April 1, the 92nd day of 2020. There are 274 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On April 1, 1976, Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. House of Representatives held its first full meeting in New York; Frederick Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first House speaker.

In 1891, the Wrigley Co. was founded in Chicago by William Wrigley, Jr.

In 1917, Scott Joplin, "The King of Ragtime Writers," died at a New York City hospital; he was believed to have been 49 years old.

In 1945, American forces launched the amphibious invasion of Okinawa during World War II. (U.S. forces succeeded in capturing the Japanese island on June 22.)

In 1954, the United States Air Force Academy was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1963, New York City's daily newspapers resumed publishing after settlement was reached in a 114-day strike. The daytime drama "General Hospital" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and television, to take effect after Jan. 1, 1971.

In 1972, the first Major League Baseball players' strike began; it lasted 12 days.

Stay safe and find stuttering help online

As many schools are now closed and parents are searching for at-home and online resources for children, the

Long-absent dad chooses friend over his own family

DEAR ABBY: My father has been mostly absent from my life. We reconnected when I was an adult. I have always had feelings of abandonment, and because of this, I have constantly tried to build a relationship with him and allow him to have one with his grandchildren.

Dad met my friend of 10 years, "Danielle," two months ago when I threw him a birthday party. Since then, he and Danielle have begun a relationship on the sly. The problem is, Danielle tells Dad things I confided to her over the years, and he is coming back to me with whatever she has told him.

Dad has been separated for 14 years, and Danielle insisted that she wouldn't date him under those circumstances, but she did. Since the start of this, my relationship with my dad is even worse, and my long friendship with Danielle has been ruined because I know I can't trust her. Dad spends all of his time with her and her child now and hasn't begun to build a bond with me or his own grandchildren, which has been the story of my life, and my friend knows this. Abby, am I being selfish? What do you think I should do? — More Than Awkward In Arkansas

DEAR MORE: I don't think you are selfish. You have good reason to be hurt and disappointed. Your father is remaining true to character, but your friend has betrayed your trust. You may need the help of a licensed therapist to move beyond this, and that is what I recommend you do.

Believe me, you have my sympathy. But you can't change your father or Danielle. You can, however, change the way you react to them, and a therapist will help you do that more quickly than you can do it on your own.

DEAR READERS: On April 1, I like to share a few of the more offbeat letters I receive. Here are three:

DEAR ABBY: For more than 50 years, my wife has had a close relationship with a stuffed panda bear she received when she was 8 years old. His name is Daffy, and he sits by our fireplace and pretty much rules the house. She makes him "talk" and takes him places.

When I make a mistake, like not hanging up my jacket, I say that Daffy told me not to do it. She gets mad, and I get a lecture from Daffy about how he isn't to blame and he never makes a mistake. I am joking when I blame Daffy, but my wife and Daffy don't find it funny. Am I wrong to make a joke, or should I not blame Daffy? (Daffy told me to write this letter.) — Panda-monium Out West

DEAR PANDA-MONIUM: It appears there are not one, but three "daffys" in your household. If you can't "bear" what's going on, stop joking.

P.S. You must think I'm daffy to believe this letter is legit.

DEAR ABBY: How do you address a letter to three doctors who are in a domestic partnership? Two are married to each other and have the same last name. I addressed it as, "Drs. Jane and John Doe and Joe Brown," but I wanted to be sure for future correspondence. — Three's Company In Atlanta

DEAR T.C.: Surrounded by so many doctors, you must be receiving excellent health care! The correspondence should be addressed to "Drs. Jane and John Doe and Joe Brown, M.D." Joe earned his degree and deserves that title — even if he is coming in third.

DEAR ABBY: When I put my hand on my wife's knee at the dinner table last night, she blurted out the name of another man. What do you make of this? — Curious In California

DEAR CURIOUS: Unless the name she blurted was Alfredo and you were eating pasta, I suspect you may have a problem.

Happy April Fools' Day, everyone!

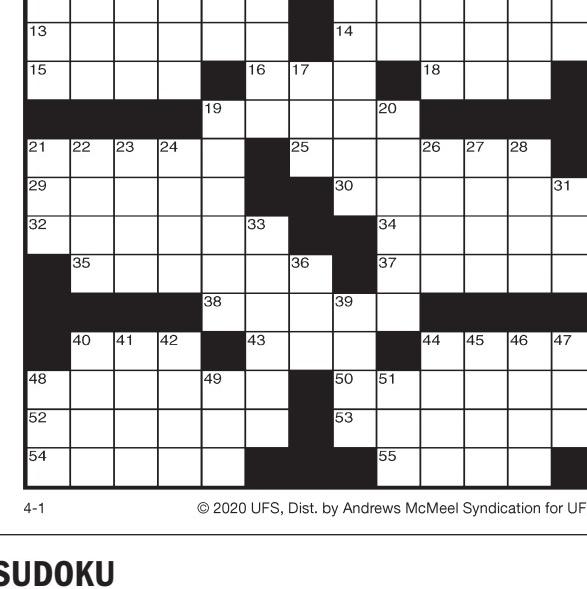
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Impose taxes
- Game of strategy
- Mummy locale
- Hot dog
- Hun leader
- Steers clear of
- Harlow or Stapleton
- Traipse
- Cookbook amt.
- Scorch
- Tiny part
- Stetson wearers
- Undersized
- Expand
- Many sculptures
- Some eclipses
- Bloodhounds' clues
- Steal the scene
- Tough work schedule
- Fleece-giver
- Onassis nickname

DOWN

- Pear-shaped instrument
- Are, in Taxco
- Ore deposit
- "The King and I" name
- Not mil.
- Radiator output
- Finishes up
- Filter in
- Almost-grads
- Mil. rank
- Pageant figures
- Jammed
- Industrial insect
- Casual goodbye (2 wds.)
- Banished
- St. Louis time
- Griddler — Alonzo Stagg
- Cleopatra's woer
- Failing that
- Pickling ingredient
- Billionth, in combos
- PDQ
- Before, in verse
- String of pearls
- Isaac Newton's title
- Shade of green
- Volcano in Sicily
- Soaks
- Arden and Curie
- Does some tape editing
- Uttered
- Dried-up
- Moose kin
- Drink a little
- Pilot's dir.
- French friend



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

4	2	1	9	5	3	6	8	7
6	5	9	8	7	1	2	3	4
7	8	3	4	2	6	9	5	1
8	3	4	7	6	9	1	2	5
2	1	7	3	8	5	4	6	9
5	9	6	1	4	2	3	7	8
1	6	8	2	9	7	5	4	3
3	4	5	6	1	8	7	9	2
9	7	2	5	3	4	8	1	6

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

4/1

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KAKIH



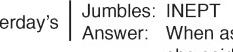
RGEEV



NOTENB



PAYNSP



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app! Follow us on Twitter @PayJumble

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Ha! April Fool's Gotcha again!

Huh?

4

WHEN THE SCIENTIST PLAYED AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE ON HIS MONSTER, HE WAS BEING A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: INEPT LOUSY VERBAL CANOLA

Answer: When asked how many home sites were left, she said they had — LOTS AVAILABLE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



4-1
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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"Daddy needs to fill out the census questionnaire, so we all hafta stand still while he counts us."

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



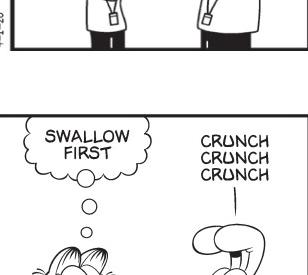
BC



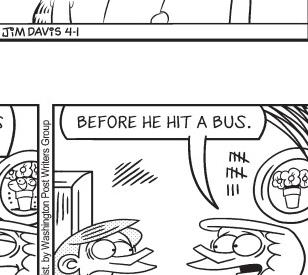
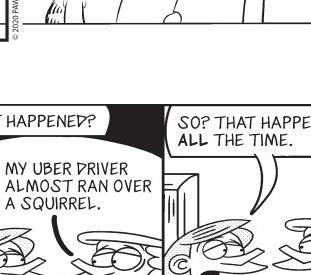
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



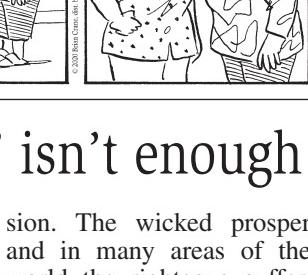
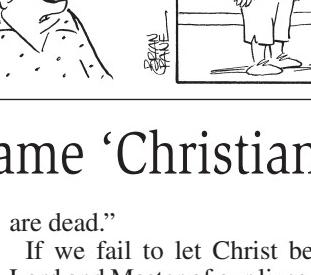
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



To bear the name 'Christian' isn't enough

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Christianity has become a cultural cliche. I meet many people who identify with the Christian faith but their lives do not reflect a different way of living from almost any other religion. Is this acceptable according to Scripture? — C.C.

A: If Christianity is important at all, it is all-important. If it is anything at all, it's everything. It's either the most vital thing in your life, or it isn't worth bothering with. To bear the name "Christian" isn't enough. If our conduct doesn't measure up to Biblical standards, condemnation will be ours. There is a startling passage in Revelation 3:1 that declares: "You have a name that you are alive, but you

are dead."

If we fail to let Christ be Lord and Master of our lives, we must come under the judgment of God, who said, "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me" (Matthew 15:8).

Scarcely, if ever, has economic prosperity been accompanied by such widespread unhappiness, lawlessness and rebellion. A hostile world is seething with hatred, intrigue, lawlessness and godless aggression.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"Z O V Z K D R W S L C . . . 1 0 3 P X L V C D I

M B O C X L V M B . M B L M ' C W D M L I O T X

V O I W M D O M ! W V X L M B L I W O I W F O M B

Education

SHARP CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RELEASES THIRD-QUARTER HONOR ROLLS

STAFF REPORT

Sharp Creek Elementary School has released their honor rolls for the third quarter, according to a press release:

Fourth grade

A Honor Roll: Collin Biehl, Nathaniel Hodson, Madelyn Holley, James Kowalcuk, Preston Moore, Kolten Prus, Makaela Shoue, Breslyn Swihart, Calvin Thompson, Isabella Unger and Naomi Watson.

A/B Honor Roll: Kyra Aderman, Teagan Baer, Briggs Baker, Bella Baynes, Ian Blaylock, Samantha Bolin, Haylee Boring, Karsen Brown, Justin Brunett, Zoe Clifton, Ali Copeland, Rayley Cravens, Montgomery Dawes, Megan Easterday, Jailea Emley, Kasen Fitch, Jozilynn Fleshood, Kasen Frank, Brayden Gidley, Jazmine Gill, Cody Holmes, Kash Laferney, Gavin Lester, Callie McClure, Emily Miller, Kaydence Moser, Elena Nesler, Kaleigh Rice, Gabbiellah Rojas, Breckin Sanders, Ean Selleck, Leah Shafer, Stella Stephens, Jerrick Warnock, Simon Webb and Andrea Widemom.

Fifth grade

A Honor Roll: Chloe Baugher, Emily Bever, Claire Brainard, Wyttt Bucher, Nicholas Cowan, Keeshia Dacuba, Ayla Dale, Caleb Dubois, Allison Edmond, Nichole Fisher, Tyce Frank, Emme Hanes, Laney Haupert, Vivian Haupert, Millie Higgins, Ethan Hoover, Ashlyn Macy,

Taylor Manuel, Hayden Martin, Saige Martin, Jackson Mercer, Logan Mercer, Mikayla Meyer, Kourtland Pratt, Kendra Rife, Holten Satterthwaite, Addison Sorg, Kiana Stevens, Mallory Tart, Dawson Texeira, Adrienne Unger and Emma Wilson.

A/B Honor Roll: Cayden Amburgey, Aliana Arney, Cail Black, Amarali Bowers, Kiana Bretzman, Alivia Cole, Hayden Copeland, Chad Eckols, Lilli Koonce, Faith Krom, Olia Lefert, Justin Lynn, Landon Mast, Landon McLaughlin, Emily Melton, Austin Miller, Zoey Music, Isabella Myers, Jacob Nesler, Kennady Nordman, Kevin Parke, Harleigh Peterson, Elaine Rehak, Elijah Shoue, Gracie Sisco, Lukas Southwick, Ryhan Turner, Ruby Weaver and Chloie Youngblood.

Sixth grade

A Honor Roll: Tayten Barlow, Tyler Haupert, Callie Hoffman, Sophia Holley, Ty Leming, Neil Long, Logan Lyons, Mason Lyons, Francie McDonald, Alyssa Schnepp, Brinlei Swihart and Cody Yeiser.

A/B Honor Roll: Lillian Barton, Sarah Bever, Gavin Brainard, Maddox Elzy, Kaelynne Emley, Luke Eviston, Patience Foudray, Trevor Galbraith, Logan Graft, Kaylee Hall, Grace Harrington, Jade Harrington, Drake King, Alec Oswalt, Eli Pence, Sophie Powell, Erin Rehak, Brayden Rice, Xavier Roark, Ryder Schram, Emma Shrock, Mackenzie Southwick, Isaac Stakeman and Jaxton Stout.

IDOE releases further details to help lessen COVID-19 impact on schools

Mandated statewide school closure to last until May 1

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) released further details on additional actions announced by Gov. Eric Holcomb to help lessen the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indiana's schools, according to a press release.

IDOE provided the following considerations for schools:

- Mandated Statewide School Closure until May 1: This mandated closure follows the recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to limit gatherings to less than 10, and may be extended through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools utilizing eLearning can continue to do so as determined by their local school administrators and school boards.

- Twenty Day Waiver Extension: As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to shift, the current 20-day waiver may not adequately address the needs of local districts. Therefore, IDOE will work with individual districts and schools to determine the total amount of instructional waiver days necessary.

- Forgiveness from Ac-

countability, Chronic Absenteeism, and Assessment Requirements: Indiana will continue to pursue all federal waivers associated with the forgiveness of accountability, chronic absenteeism, and mandated assessment requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. IREAD-3, ILEARN, ISTEP+, I AM, WIDA Screener, and IS-PROUT have been canceled. Please note, IS-PROUT and WIDA continue to be available for early childhood providers that are operational and districts utilizing eLearning.

- Requirements for Grade 12 Seniors: Understanding the acceptable concerns of Grade 12 seniors and their families, IDOE will continue working to develop a timely and practical solution.

- Food Service Waiver: Providing children access to wholesome and nutritional meals is a priority and an action our schools continue to take. While schools are finding creative solutions to meet the needs of their students, IDOE will vigorously pursue all available federal waivers to ensure zero interruption. To date, 94 percent of Indiana's traditional public schools are providing or arranging meals.

For more information, visit www.doe.in.gov/safety/health/covid-19-resources-indiana-schools.

Hoosier Boys State 2020 canceled

Sponsors to be reimbursed by American Legion

STAFF REPORT

The Hoosier Boys State 2020 has been canceled, according to Scott Weyler, director of Hoosier Boys State, a program of the American Legion.

"Since 1937, Hoosier Boys State has enjoyed great success as one of the premier Children and Youth programs sponsored by the American Legion, Department of Indiana. However, this year has brought about a pandemic event, unlike anything we have seen in our lifetime. The coronavirus is a very serious worldwide event that has forced us all to make tough, but responsible decisions," stated Weyler. "As the Program Director of Hoosier

Boys State, I am speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors. After consulting with Jennifer LaRose, our contact person at Trine University, a mutual decision has been reached. With tears in my eyes, regarding this year's program, I regret to inform you that, Hoosier Boys State is canceled for 2020. I have been in contact with Department Commander Allen Connally and Adjutant John Crosby concerning reimbursements to sponsors as soon as possible.

Thanks to all members of the Board, the Enrollment Committee and the American Legion Department of Indiana Posts. Also, a very special thanks to our dedicated staff. We will assemble in 2021 to make the 83rd Hoosier Boys State truly 'A Week to Shape a Lifetime.' Stay safe and healthy. Good luck."

State offering free virtual FAFSA filing help for students, families Saturday

April 15 deadline to file for student financial aid eligibility swiftly approaching

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is encouraging all students to file the 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before the approaching April 15 deadline. As part of the state's annual Cash for College campaign, the Commission is joining with INvestED Indiana to host a virtual FAFSA Frenzy event on Saturday, April 4, according to a press release.

The annual FAFSA Frenzy is typically held in person, however, the event will be held virtually to maintain the health and safety of Hoosiers during the

COVID-19 outbreak and to follow Gov. Eric Holcomb's executive orders surrounding staying at home and social distancing.

Students and families may seek assistance through the Commission's Learn More Indiana social media platforms, which will be manned by Commission staff members during the live event. Staff will be answering common FAFSA questions and posting videos about the FAFSA. Follow along on social media with the #FAFSAFrenzyIN hashtag.

By text and phone: To best serve the state, the Commission has split the state into eight regions. A full list of counties and associated numbers are available at www.learnmoreindiana.org.

Reach INvestED any time at 317-715-9007 for free assistance with the FAFSA. Please note, do not share

your Social Security Number or other private information over social media. Please be patient during the event. If you cannot get hold of someone by phone, leave a voicemail and they will return your call when they are available.

Students and families can contact the Commission's Outreach staff and the INvestED team at any time, even after the virtual event concludes.

Assistance with filing the FAFSA is open to anyone – regardless of age – planning to attend or thinking of attending college or some form of postsecondary education in the fall. Filing the FAFSA is an important step in the postsecondary enrollment process for all Hoosier students and families – despite socioeconomic status. Having a current FAFSA on file ensures college is as affordable as possible and

opens up opportunities for federal, state and institutional financial aid.

Information needed to file the FAFSA

- Federal Student Aid ID (the FSA ID is a user-name and password created through the FAFSA website).

- Social Security number.

- Driver's license number.

- Student and parents' or guardians' most recent federal tax returns (IRS forms 1040, 1040EZ or 1040A); students under age 23 require a parents' or guardians' information in addition to their own.

- Records of money earned, including W-2 forms and recent bank statements.

- Alien registration numbers or permanent residence cards, if students or parents/guardians are not U.S. citizens.

COVID-19-related educational resources available

Access Youth Center offers free lunch sack on weekdays at two locations

The Access Youth Center's Drive-Thru will be open from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and feature a lunch sack of snacks, protein and fruit provided at the door. Both locations will be open during this time: One on the south side, New Journey Community Church, 1721 N. Vernon St. and one downtown at the AYC headquarters at 74 W. Canal St. For more information, visit www.accessyouthcenter.org or call 260-563-2070. On Mondays, Pizza King will provide pizza for both locations.

Schools providing meals even during closures

- Manchester Community Schools: On Saturdays, MCS will distribute a box containing food for breakfast and lunch for five days to each child ages 1 to 18. (The child must be present.) The distribution will be at the following places and times: Manchester Elementary School: From 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Door No. 8. (This is a different door than last week.); Manchester Intermediate School: From 4 to 5:30 p.m. at

Door No. 1; Manchester Jr./Sr. High School: 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the back drive by tennis courts. (Please enter from Market Street.); Disko: From 4 to 4:20 p.m. (Look for the school bus.); Liberty Mills: From 4 to 4:20 p.m. (Look for the school bus.); and Servia: From 4:45 to 5:05 p.m. (Look for the school bus.)

- MSD: Sites include: Meadowbrook at the bus stop; Urbana Yoke Parish Church; Lagro United Methodist Church; Roann Paw Paw Township Public Library; Metro North Elementary at door 14; La Fontaine United Methodist Church; Somerset in front of the convenience store; Friends Church in the north parking lot; and Southwood Jr/Sr High at Door No. 5. Pickup time has changed to 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. at all nine locations. This continues April 1, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29. Even those who had signed up on the first form that was created last week should complete the updated form by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/rdaron2>.

- Wabash City Schools: Schools began serving food only on Mondays and Wednesdays. Three breakfasts and three lunches will be served on Mondays. Three breakfasts and three lunches on Wednesdays. Several Wabash Cafeteria locations will also be serving

food Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, including

11 to 11:15 a.m. at Southside Firestation, 1470 Vernon St., City Park, 800 W. Hill St., and St. Matthew's

United Church of Christ, 1717 N. Wabash St.; 11:45

to noon at Friendship Hill playground beside the YMCA, and Wabash North Wesleyan Church, 600 Manchester Ave.; and

12:30 to 12:45 p.m. at Hannah Park, 775 E. Hill St., Ivy Tech back parking lot, 277 N. Thorn St., and

Church, 1206 N. Cass St.

Due to the extended closing of Wabash County school corporations until May 1 in response to COVID-19, Grow Wabash County has decided to cancel the 2020 INnovate Wabash County Pitch Competition originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 29.

2020 INnovate Wabash County Pitch Competition canceled

Grow Wabash County has decided to cancel its annual Honor Student Luncheon originally scheduled for Thursday, April 16. Questions regarding the event's cancellation may be directed via email to marketing@growwabashcounty.com or by calling 260-563-5258.

Ivy Tech in Wabash's Monopoly Night postponed

Ivy Tech Community College's 11th annual Wabash Monopoly Night, a free event originally scheduled for April 24 at Eagle's Theatre, has been postponed. Several Wabash Cafeteria locations will also be serving

safe and healthy," according to a press release.

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) is working to link Hoosiers willing to serve Hoosiers with these available opportunities," stated the release.

If you are interested in serving Hoosiers, visit <https://www.in.gov/fssa/5769.htm> and fill out the form.

"We will do our best to connect you with opportunities," stated the release.

WCPL plans summer reading, 'Bash Con'

Bash Con is set to last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 26 at 188 W. Hill St. Bash Con's theme for this year is "Imagine Your Story" and free booth space is available for artists and vendors. Amateur artists are encouraged and welcomed. To register, visit <https://www.wabash.lib.in.us/bash-con>. For more information, call 260-563-2972.

Hoosiers Serving Hoosiers seeks to provide essential services

FSSA database looks to allow direct support professionals to assist essential workers

STAFF REPORT

Direct support professionals are needed to provide critical care for older Hoosiers and those with

disabilities. And child care providers are needed to care for children of first responders, health care and other essential workers, "so the rest of us can stay

safe and healthy," according to a press release.

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) is working to link Hoosiers willing to serve Hoosiers with these available opportunities," stated the release.

"We will do our best to connect you with opportunities," stated the release.

ability to serve all children.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos blasted that approach, saying schools have a duty to serve their students. She urged schools to use online platforms or, if that isn't possible, low-tech alternatives like work packets or written assignments.

"It was extremely disappointing to hear that some school districts were using information from the Department of Education as an excuse not to educate kids," DeVos said in a March 23 statement. "This is a time for creativity and an opportunity to pursue as much flexibility as possible so that learning continues."

Many districts say it's inevitable that families would have to help. Some are asking parents to guide students through daily lessons or administer tests measuring their children's progress, a key component of special education laws.

Remote learning poses hurdles for students with disabilities

By COLLIN BINKLEY

Associated Press

BOSTON — At school, Rose Hayes, 8, works with a team of teachers and therapists trained to help with her genetic condition. They set goals for her reading, give her physical therapy to improve her balance and make sure she stays on track. But for the last two weeks, her only connection to school has been through a computer screen.

Rose, home amid the coronavirus pandemic that has shuttered schools across the country, now watches lessons her teacher posts to YouTube. Her therapists check in via video chat. In between, she works through daily assignments.

Her parents say it's the best they can expect, but they still struggle. Rose has difficulty working on her own, so they need to stay nearby. And without the therapy equipment Rose uses at school,

they have to improvise. "We're trying to be teachers. We're trying to be therapists. We're a little bit of everything right now, and it's very stressful," said Rob Hayes, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

He and his wife work for pharmaceutical companies and have continued working during the pandemic, trading turns staying home with Rose and their 2-year-old daughter.

Across the U.S., schools and families face new challenges in maintaining instruction for students with disabilities. Teachers are exploring new ways to deliver customized lessons from afar.

And while parents of all children have taken on schooling duties, those whose children have disabilities are adding therapy, hands-on lessons and behavioral management to the list.

Last year, nearly 7 million U.S. students ages 3 to 18 received special education services, according to feder-

al data. Schools are required to craft individual education plans for each one: For some, it's mostly a matter of providing extra time on assignments; others need an array of complex services, and some have lost access to expensive technology they use at school to help them communicate.

As

Virus disrupts pregnancy plans, raises anxiety and questions

By LINDSEY TANNER

Associated Press

Some pregnant women fear giving birth with no loved ones by their side. Others worry about getting sick with COVID-19 and not being able to hold their newborns. The coronavirus pandemic has injected anxiety and uncertainty to an already stressful time and while science about risks is mostly reassuring, doctors want clearer

answers too.

"There is very limited information available," said Dr. Leana Wen, a George Washington University public health specialist. She wants answers as a physician and as a patient — Wen is pregnant and due to give birth to her second child any day.

Her greatest fear is developing a COVID-19 infection or symptoms that would force her to be separated from her newborn for days

or weeks.

"I would only be able to see my baby through a glass window," said Wen, former Baltimore health commissioner. "That's the one that gives me nightmares."

To help provide answers, the University of California, San Francisco last week started the first U.S. registry of COVID-19 infected or exposed pregnant women. At least 60 women have enrolled so far.

Not all have confirmed cases. Women who turn out not to be infected will remain in the registry as a comparison group.

The more women in the registry "the more quickly we can provide the answers," said Dr. Vanessa Jacoby, who heads the effort.

The big questions include: Are pregnant women more likely than others to become infected and to develop complications? Preliminary

evidence suggests no.

There is also no definitive evidence that the virus can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, although three small and preliminary studies from China published last week raised that possibility. One paper in JAMA Pediatrics included 33 infants born to infected women; only three babies tested positive, two days after birth, and developed symptoms including pneumo-

monia. All three recovered.

It's likely their mothers transmitted the disease during or after birth, not during pregnancy, said Dr. David Kimberlin, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"The numbers are too small to make any conclusions" about how often infants become infected or how sick they become, Kimberlin said.

PULSE

From page A1

meeting No. 2581172934. For more information, visit zoom.us.

Wabash Marketplace announces April First Friday cancellation

First Friday in Downtown Wabash, originally scheduled for Friday, April 3, has been canceled. At this time, Wabash Marketplace still proceeding with the event on May 1. For more information, visit www.wabashmarketplace.org or call 260-563-0975.

Closings announced due to COVID-19 concerns

■ Access Youth Center: All scheduled after school and weekend programming is canceled until further notice.

■ BMV: Closed until at least April 7. The phone number is 888-692-6841 and the lines are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, visit https://www.in.gov/bmv/4363.htm.

■ Community Foundation of Wabash County: Individuals with questions may email patty@cfwabash.org or julie@cfwabash.org, or call 260-982-4824.

■ Division of Family Resources: Offices closed until further notice. Visit the FSSA benefits portal at www.fssabenefits.in.gov. DFR staff is available by phone at 800-403-0864 to provide customer service from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients may also continue to send documents to DFR via mail at P.O. Box 1810, Marion, IN 46952.

■ Farm Service Agency: County offices are open in Indiana by phone appointment only until further notice, and staff is available to continue helping agricultural producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions. Call 260-563-7486.

■ Honeywell Foundation: All events at foundation properties including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Dr. James Ford Historic Home and Charley Creek Gardens are suspended through Saturday, April 11.

■ Living Well in Wabash County: The Community Cupboard pantry will operate as a drive-through with regular pantry hours, which are from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays; and open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Senior lunches at Winchester Senior Center will be operated as a drive-through at the front door of the senior center from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch reservations continue to require 48 business hours of reservations. Seniors age 60 and older wanting a lunch must call Winchester Senior Center at 260-563-4475.

■ Manchester Community Schools: Closed through Friday, May 1.

■ Manchester University: Remote teaching for students will last through the end of the semester. Residence halls will close for the remainder of the semester. All campus activities

for the remainder of the semester have been canceled or postponed. Spring Commencement ceremonies are canceled.

■ MSD: Closed through Friday, May 1. Spring Break is scheduled from April 3 to 10.

■ The North Manchester Center for History: Temporarily closed to the public. The Crossroads: Change in Rural America exhibit is available through video on the NHCH Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterHistory.

■ North Manchester Public Library: Closed until April 7. Except for hotspots, no materials will be due during the closure. All online events will stream on the NMPL Facebook at www.facebook.com/NorthManchesterPublicLibrary/ and will then be archived on the Online Programming Archive.

For more information, email nmpl@nmn.lib.in.us, call 260-982-4773 or visit www.nmn.lib.in.us.

■ St. Bernard School: Closed through at least April 7.

■ Wabash Carnegie Public Library: Closed through at least April 13. Overdue fines for all times except Wi-Fi hotspots waived until further notice. For more information, email warew@wabash.lib.in.us or visit www.wabash.lib.in.us or www.facebook.com/WabashCarnegieLibrary.

■ Wabash City Hall: All public meetings postponed. Wabash City Hall will be closed through at least April 7. Citizens should visit www.cityofwabash.com to pay bills for wastewater, ambulance billing and building department permits. City court offers pay by phone services. Phone calls to the main Wabash City Hall number at 260-563-4171 will be answered by voicemail. Questions regarding COVID-19 can also be directed to the new email address at covid19info@cityofwabash.com. Anyone with questions should call 260-274-1485 or email mayor@cityofwabash.com.

■ Wabash City Schools: Closed through Friday, May 1. Current e-learning days include Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, except for the week of April 6, which is spring break.

■ Wabash Circuit and Superior Courts and Court Services (Probation and Community Corrections divisions): Closed to the public Wednesdays and Fridays through April 3.

■ Wabash County Courthouse and Wabash County Health Department: Closed to the public except by appointment. Payments and other documents for these offices

may be placed in a large locked box located just inside the west basement door of the courthouse. For more information, visit www.wabashcounty.in.gov or call the Courthouse at 260-563-0661 ext. 1222.

■ Wabash County Judicial Center: Closed to the public through April 6. A drop box is located outside, near the top of the stairs, for depositing payments and documents. The Wabash County Elections

office may be reached at 260-563-0661 ext. 1238, Wabash County Circuit Court at 260-563-0661 ext. 1241, Wabash County Superior Court at 260-563-0661 ext. 1254, Wabash

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County Court Services at 260-563-8466 ext. 1276, Judicial Annex Court Security: 260-563-0661 ext. 1261 and Wabash County Clerk of the Courts: 260-563-0661 ext. 1239.

■ Wabash County Museum: Temporarily closed until further notice.

■ Wabash County Solid Waste Management District: Offices and warehouse closed to the public until further notice. 24/7 drop sites at 1101 Manchester Ave. and at the Hardware in North Manchester will remain open for regular recycling. For more information, call 260-563-7649.

■ Woman's Clubhouse: Closed through at least May 8.

■ WorkOne: Closed until further notice. Contact staff by phone at the Wabash location at 260-563-8421.

■ Winchester Senior Center: All daily activities suspended until at least April 13.

Living Well in Wabash County offers food, transportation, support

The Friendly Caller Program may be reached by calling 260-563-4475 to request a daily call to check in on you during this time when seniors will be home more than usual. Living Well in Wabash County will now pick up and deliver pre-paid groceries and essentials within Wabash County. For more information or to request special delivery call 260-563-7536. The service is based upon availability. This temporary delivery service is free to adults age 60 and older; normal one-way transit fees apply for 59 and under. Until further notice, the county-wide transit system for all ages is operating for essential travel only which is work, food, pharmacy and pre-scheduled medical within Wabash County. The hours of operation for the system are from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those wanting to schedule a ride or delivery should call dispatch from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 260-563-536 or toll-free at 888-498-4400. The deadline to schedule next day transit rides is 4 p.m. Adults age 60 and older ride Wabash County Transit by donation.

Riders age 59 and younger pay \$2 per one way trip in Wabash and North Manchester with rides anywhere else in Wabash County at \$4 per one way trip.

Low-income households can apply for the Share the Fare program.

Second Harvest Food Bank seeks volunteers, donations

Those who are interested in volunteering may contact Kellie Arrowood, volunteer coordinator for Second Harvest, by calling the office at 765-287-8698, emailing karrowood@curehunger.org or visiting www.CureHunger.org.

New dates, postponements, cancellations set for Honeywell Center, Eagles Theatre events

■ Honeywell Center: Hairball rescheduled for Friday, Sept. 18.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will be rescheduled but does not yet have a set date. "Finding Neverland" has been canceled and ticket holders will receive an email with information regarding their refund.

■ Honeywell House: Cabaret!!!, Dinner Chamber Series "Opus Two," Conversations on Renovation and Eagles Theatre Ballroom Dances into the Future will be rescheduled, but does not yet have a set date.

■ Eagles Theatre: Top of the Charts rescheduled for Thursday, June 18. Tribute to John Denver rescheduled for Thursday, July 23. Buckets N Boards will be rescheduled but does not yet have a set date.

Parkview Wabash partners with volunteers to produce PPE

The mask-making kits may be picked up from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 3718 New Vision Drive, located on the Parkview Regional Medical Center campus in Fort Wayne. Volunteers should turn on to New Vision Drive from Diebold Road. Signs will be posted to indicate where you can drive up to easily receive the kits without leaving your vehicle. All completed masks can be returned to the Fort Wayne location or to your local Parkview community hospital.

Community Foundation establishes COVID-19 assistance program

Eligible individuals who may apply for assistance grants are individuals who have lost their jobs, income or wages related to COVID-19 business closures and layoffs, and have no other significant source of income; and are still working and need

to provide for childcare (ages 0 to 12) due to school and daycare closures, and have no other significant source of income.

Wabash County citizens who meet the above criteria can request applications for assistance by contacting the Community Foundation COVID-19 Assistance Program

Partners who serve as applicant sponsors including REACH, WAMA or their respective township trustee. To assist, visit www.cfwabash.org or mail a check to 105 W. Second St., Suite 100, North Manchester, IN 46962, with the COVID-19 Assistance Program in the memo line. For more information, email patty@cfwabash.org or melissa@cfwabash.org or call 260-982-4824.

If you are unsure of your township, visit www.stats.indiana.edu/maptools/townships.asp to view the map of Wabash County. For more information on the Township Trustees, visit the County Departments tab on the Wabash County Government website at http://wabashcounty.in.gov/cgi.exe.

Road closure scheduled for Indiana 114

Culvert replacements are scheduled for Indiana 114 from County 1200 North to Indiana 15 in Wabash County. The road closure is scheduled to begin in mid-April but may begin at the end of April due to weather. The five-day closure will allow maintenance crews to complete the replacement of multiple culvert pipes.

Access to homes and businesses will be maintained through the work. The official state detour for the closure will be Indiana 14 to Indiana 15.

The work is scheduled to be complete by April 17, weather permitting. Motorists can expect to see signage up as early as the week of April 1.

Comedian Michael Palascak to perform at Lagro benefit event

"Dia de Lagro" will take place Tuesday, May 5 at the Eads Barn, 4725 E. 200 North, Urbana. Appetizers, cocktails, singer Kimberly Rutledge and Emcee Reed Christiansen are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. A Mexican-themed dinner, catered by Gallery 64, will begin at 6 p.m. with comedian Michael Palascak taking the stage at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$75 each, \$125 per couple or \$500 for a table of eight. For more information, visit lagrocanalfoundation.com. Those interested in donating prizes for

the silent auction or would like to become a main sponsor may email lagrocanalfoundation@gmail.com.

Farmers market season set to begin May 16

The Downtown Wabash Farmers Market opens from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16 in the Honeywell Center/Wabash Elk's Parking Lot. The market occurs every Saturday through Sept. 26. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or volunteering at the event, call 260-563-0975 or visit www.wabashmarketplace.org.

Mural festival seeks local artists

Make It Your Own Mural Fest, organized by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, is asking artists to apply for the Artist and Mentorship Programs as part of the 11-day mural festival scheduled for Sept. 8 to 18. Make It Your Own Mural Fest is also searching for volunteers for the Mentorship Program.

Applications are available at www.NElmurafestival.com and are open through the end of May.

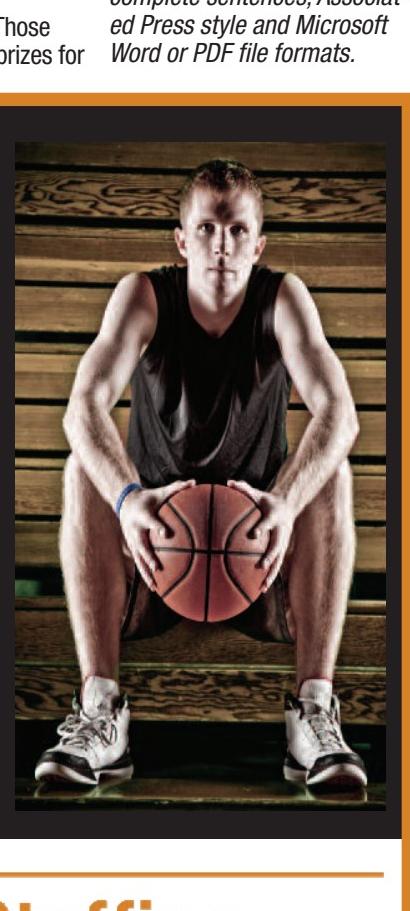
Wabash Kiwanis Club Pancake Day officially rescheduled

The Wabash Kiwanis Club's annual Pancake Day has been rescheduled from March 14 to Saturday, June 6 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds.

The event's Pancake Eating Contest will take place at noon. Pancakes, with or without blueberries, will be available, along with sausages and refreshments. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for adults 13 and older and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 and younger. Sponsorship opportunities for businesses are available by emailing Kiwanian Donna Siders at donnasiders@hotmail.com or calling 260-571-1892. For more information, email keaffaberm@msdwc.k12.in.us.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

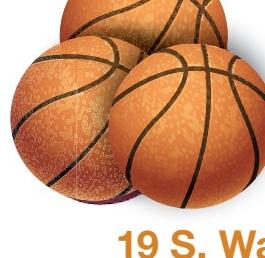
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